



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Howard County Woman Convicted of Burglary in Looting of Ellicott City Flood-Ravaged Restaurant

A Howard County woman arrested in the aftermath of the Ellicott City flood last summer has pleaded guilty to 4th-degree burglary in the looting of a restaurant. Madeline Eve Scott, 30, of the 3700 block of St. Paul Street, Ellicott City pleaded guilty in Howard County Circuit Court this morning.

Assistant State's Attorney Dillon Yeung told the court that on July 31, 2016, one of the owners of Portalli's restaurant, located at 8025 Main Street, saw Scott carrying four bottles of liquor from his flood-ravaged restaurant. He confronted Scott, who cursed at him, but he was able to recover three of the bottles. Scott threw the remaining bottle at him, striking him in the arm before it crashed to the ground. He followed the woman to St. Paul St., behind the restaurant, where a neighbor recognized and identified Scott. Madeline Scott denied that she used profanity or that the bottle stuck the victim.

The theft followed flooding that devastated Ellicott City's historic district the night before, resulting in the deaths of two people. Portalli's remains closed as it is being rebuilt. The owner, Evan A. Brown was unable to attend the plea hearing but Yeung read a victim impact statement in which Brown characterized the theft as "a hateful and unsympathetic act by a stranger."

At the conclusion of the hearing Howard County Circuit Court Judge Lenore R. Gelfman sentenced Scott to three days in jail, placed her on 18 months of supervised probation, ordered restitution and directed her to successfully complete mental health treatment. The judge also ordered Scott to write letters of apology to Evan Brown and to the Ellicott City Partnership. Scott has also completed 83 hours of community service prior to being sentenced